



PATENT  
Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 09062.0456

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
 )  
Michel GARRAIT et al. ) Group Art Unit: 1623  
 )  
Application No.: 350,152/09 ) Examiner: T. Oh  
 )  
Filed: July 9, 1999 )  
 )  
For: PROCESS FOR THE )  
PREPARATION OF )  
HYDROXYMETHYLBUTYRIC )  
ACID )

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

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**EXAMINER COMMUNICATION**

Pursuant to a telephone interview with Examiner Oh on February 21, 2003, Applicants submit herewith a copy of the Preliminary Amendment filed April 5, 2001, and a copy of the stamped post card.

This amendment cancels claims 1-14 and adds claims 15-34. Accordingly, contrary to the advisory action, claims 16-34 are already pending and the amendment filed December 23, 2002, merely corrects typographical errors in claim dependency. This amendment requires no further search or examination and its entry is earnestly solicited.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner issue a new Advisory Action acknowledging the pendency of claims 16-34 and indicating that the amendment of December 23, 2002, will be entered for purposes of appeal.

FINNEGAN  
HENDERSON  
FARABOW  
GARRETT &  
DUNNER LLP

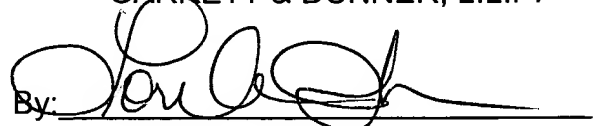
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Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,  
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: March 4, 2003

By: 

Lori-Ann Johnson  
Reg. No. 34,495

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PLEASE STAMP TO ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF THE FOLLOWING:

In Re Application of: Michel GARRAIT et al.

Appln. No.: 09/350,152

Filed: July 9, 1999

Group Art Unit: 1623

Examiner: J. Calve

For: PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF HYDROXYMETHYLBUTYRIC ACID

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1. Petition for Extension of Time (1 page)
2. Transmittal Letter (2 pages)
3. Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 (15 pages)
4. Check for \$1,214 (Extension Fee: \$890, Add'l Claims Fee: \$54, and Multiple Dep. Fee: \$270)

Dated: April 5, 2001

Docket No.: 06652.0456-00

CPE/PAS/V. Montenegro - Mail Drop 935



(Due Date: 04/05/01)

DD 4.5.01-0